



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony  
submitted to the  
Appropriations Committee  
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The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports **HJ 19, RESOLUTION REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE MANDATES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

From our own annually approved resolutions:

CABE urges members of the Legislature to exercise restraint when addressing education issues that impact local operations. Overly prescriptive law or regulation inhibits local capacity to innovate and best serve its public.

Below is a list of bills that you are currently considering. CABE would like you to recognize the collective impact your individual votes on bills have. We don't doubt the good intentions, we simply want to make you aware of the number of bills that -DO- all together place a burden on the operation of running a district and the primary mission of educating students.

**Bills in the 2015 session**

**SB 843 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND PUPIL PERSONNEL**, to expand in-service training for teachers, administrators and pupil personnel to include the recognition of trauma-informed behavior in children to enable such teachers, administrators and pupil personnel to more adequately respond to students with mental, emotional or behavioral health needs.

**SB 944 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT**, to require full day kindergarten.

**SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**, one or more world languages(req. in middle school new); vocational education; computer programming instruction; the safe use of social media; instruction regarding a person's rights and responsibilities during a custodial stop, investigative detention and arrest; and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including the use of chest compression.

**SB 1054 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA**, to define dyslexia, require an employee of SDE to be responsible for providing information and assistance to the public relating to dyslexia, include specific programmatic requirements for teacher preparation courses relating to dyslexia and include dyslexia instruction as part of the in-service training.

**SB 1058 AN ACT CONCERNING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**, to expand the Probate Court Truancy Clinic program to include alliance districts, to require school districts that have high rates of chronic

absenteeism to establish a district school attendance review team, to require the Department of Education to develop a chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan, to require the State Board of Education to define "disciplinary absence" and to require boards of education to report data relating to student attendance.

**SB 1089 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**, to expand in-service training program for teachers, administrators and pupil personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator certificate to provide information on mental health first aid training.

**SB 1100 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF THE REPORTING AND COLLECTION OF CERTAIN STUDENT AND TEACHER DATA**, to eliminate the reporting and collection of certain student and teacher information for purposes of the school and district profile report and the public school information system.

**HB 6186 AN ACT PROTECTING SCHOOL CHILDREN**, BOE shall establish a confidential rapid response team to coordinate with the DCF to ensure prompt reporting of suspected abuse or neglect or sexual assault.

**HB 6835 AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**, to require school districts to provide a program of bilingual education when there are 6( is now 20)(we understand this section will not be in the bill going forward) or more eligible students enrolled; to increase the time a student may spend in a program of bilingual education from 30 months to 60 months; to expand the measures used to evaluate the effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a second language programs; to provide school districts flexibility in who may provide instruction as part of the bilingual education requirement; and to require SDE to study the feasibility of regional educational service centers providing assistance to school districts for the provision of bilingual education programs.

**HB 7023 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES**. Among other sections...Requires vision and audio screeningsk-6 and 9<sup>th</sup> grade, removes annual postural screening, but still required, requires notice to parents and guardians on SNAP, requires boards of education to create rules for the control of internet access and content.

We have attached the work of the 2014 **Education Mandates committee**.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.